

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 00779 071127Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OREP, PL, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL TO POLAND

1. I HAD LUNCH FEBRUARY 4 WITH RYSZARD FRELEK, SECRETARY CC-PZPR AND DIRECTOR FO THE CC FOREIGN-AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT. FRELEK VOLUNTEERED THAT HE WAS STILL CONSIDERING THE PORPOSAL FROM THE U.S. SIDE THAT A CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION VISIT POLAND DURING THE EASTER RECESS. HE SAID THE POLISH AUTHORITIES VERY MUCH WISHED TO GIVE A POSITIVE REPLY TO THIS PROPOSAL, BUT THERE WAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM STANDING IN THE WAY. THE NEW SEJM (PARLIAMENT) WILL BE ELECTED IN MARCH AND WILL PROCEED TO ORGANIZE ITSELF SHORTLY THEREAFTER. HOWEVER, THIS PROCESS OF ORGANIZATION WILL STILL BE GOING ON AT THE TIME OF THE EASTER RECESS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS. FRELEK DID NOT KNOW WHETHER IT WOULD HAVE PROGRESSED FAR ENOUGH TO ENABLE THE SEJM TO ACT AS HOST TO A CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AT THAT TIME. HE DID WANT TO ASSURE ME THAT THE PROPOSAL WAS UNDER ACTIVE AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION AND HE VERY MUCH HOPED THAT IT WOULD PROVE POSSIBLE TO GIVE A POSITIVE REPLY TO IT BUT HE COULD NOT PREDICT YET WHAT THE REPLY WOULD BE.

2. I SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST I HAD HEARD OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A CONGRESSIONAL VISIT DURING THE EASTER RECESS, BUT I WOULD CONVEY HIS MESSAGE TO THE DEPARTMENT WHICH MIGHT WISH TO PASS IT ON TO MEMBERS OF THE GROUP PLANNING TO TRAVEL.

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PAGE 02 WARSAW 00779 071127Z

3. ALTHOUGH FRELEK DID NOT CITE IT AS A POTENTIAL IMPEDIMENT TO A VISIT, HE CLEARLY ALSO HAD IN MIND THE DIFFICULTY OF SCHEDULING VISITORS DURING EASTER WEEK IN WARSAW. IN THIS COMMUNIST COUNTRY, MANY OFFICIALS TAKE A SPRING VACATION AT EASTERTIME AND THE GOVERNMENT OPERATES AT HALF-THROTTLE DURING THE WEEK PRECEDING EASTER. SEE 75 WARSAW 925.

4. FRELEK THEN SAID THAT THE POLISH AUTHORITIES WERE THINKING OF ORGANIZING A SEJM DELEGATION OF FIVE OR SIX DEPUTIES TO VISIT THE U.S. THIS FALL, PERHAPS IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER, PARTIALLY AS A BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION. (ALTHOUGH TOO DISCREET TO SAY SO BEFORE HE IS RE-ELECTED, FRELEK INDICATED THAT HE MIGHT HEAD THIS DELEGATION. HE ALSO SAID IT WOULD INCLUD DEPUTIES " OF THE CALIBER OF MIECZYSLAW RAKOWSKI,Z EDITOR OF POLITYKA.) I SAID THERE MIGHT BE DIFFICULTIES IN ORGANIZING SUCH A VISIT IN THE IMMEDIATE PRE-ELECTION PERIOD, SINCE THE CAMPAIGN WOULD BE IN FULL SWING BY EARLY SEPTEMBER. FOLLOWING FURTHER DISCUSSION, FRELEK SAID THAT PERHAPS THE GROUP COULD COME IN JUNE AND STAY THROUGH JULY 4. HE SAID THE POLISH AUTHORITIES WISHED TO DO SOMETHING TO COMMEMORATE THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR AND TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF US-POLISH RELATIONS. THERE WOULD BE NO OTHER EVENT OR EXCHANGE OF VISITS THIS YEAR, SO FAR AS THEY WERE NOW AWARE, WHICH COULD SERVE THIS PURPOSE.

5. I SAID THAT I WOULD SEEK THE REACTION OF WASHINGTON AND LET HIM KNOW.

6. FRELEK ASKED WHETHER FOREIGN LEADERS WERE BEING INVITED TO WASHINGTON IN COMMEMORATION OF THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR. I SAID THAT, APART FROM QUEEN ELIZABETH AND PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING, I WAS NOT AWARE OF PLANS TO INVITE OTHERS. (I SEE BY TODAY'S WIRELESS BULLETIN, HWOEVER, THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC WILL VISIT WASHINGTON ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY.) FRELEK APPEARED TO BE SATISFIED NOT TO PUSH THIS LINE OF ENQUIRY FURTHER.

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PAGE 03 WARSAW 00779 071127Z

7. RECOMMENDATION: I RECOMMEND THAT, IF IT IS AT ALL FEASIBLE, WE REACT FAVORABLY TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT BY A SEJM DELEGATION IN THE SPRING. I THINK THIS WOULD SATISFY THE DESIRE OF THE POLISH REGIME TO BE REPRESENTED ON AMERICAN SOIL DURING THE BIECENTEN- NIAL YEAR. (I AM CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT A PLAUSIBLE CASE COULD BE MADE FOR THE CLAIM THAT BOTH

JABLONSKI AND JAROSZEWICZ HAVE OUTSTANDING INVITATIONS.)

8. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING:

(A) THE DEPARTMENTS'S REACTION TO THE PROPOSED VISIT
BY A SEJM DELEGATION, AND (B) INFORMATION ON A
PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL VISIT TO POLAND DURING THE
EASTER RECESS.
DAVIES

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